

## Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EB-08 STR-04 AGRE-00 TRSE-00

LAB-04 ITC-01 /026 W

-----011704 092889 /47

R 011130Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9533

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, BC

SUBJECT: MTN NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES

REF: A. STATE 308918; B. GABORONE 149

1. THERE SEEMS TO BE NO EFFECTIVE WAY IN WHICH THE US CAN DISCUSS WITH THE GOB THE SUBJECT OF TARIFF CONCESSIONS: RATHER, THE SUBJECT FALLS UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION, AN INSTITUTION DOMINATED BY THE RSA. THE RSA PRINCIPALLY DETERMINES BOTSWANA'S TARIFF LEVELS AND IT IS THE RSA COMMERCE MINISTRY WHICH, BY SECRET CUSTOMS UNION AGREEMENT, HANDLES TARIFF REDUCTION INQUIRIES FROM OUTSIDE THE CUSTOMS UNION AREA. GOB OFFICIALS POINT OUT, INFORMALLY, THAT NEITHER THE RSA NOR THE BLS STATES ARE USUALLY AMENABLE TO SUCH SUGGESTIONS; THE FORMER BECAUSE IT JEALOUSLY GUARDS THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN MARKET AS ITS OWN PRESERVE, AND THE LATTER BECAUSE THEY BENEFIT ENORMOUSLY

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FROM THE CUSTOMS UNION REVENUES, HAVE NO DESIRE TO REDUCE THEM BY REDUCING TARIFFS, AND CAN GET MOST OF THE GOODS THEY WANT FROM THE RSA.

2. CONCERNING REQUESTS FOR TARIFF REDUCTIONS WHICH ORIGINATE FROM INSIDE BOTSWANA, THE PRESCRIBED PROCEDURE IS TIME-CONSUMING, NOT GEARED TO MAKING LARGE



CHANGES AND, WE SUSPECT, OFTEN COLLAPSES OF ITS OWN BUREAUCRATIC WEIGHT. REDUCTION REQUESTS (USUALLY FROM RETAILERS AND MANUFACTURERS HERE) ARE PASSED TO GOB COMMERCE MINISTRY WHICH THEN TAKES MATTER UP WITH THE THREE OTHER CUSTOMS UNION PARTNERS, ANYONE OF WHOM CAN VETO THE REQUESTS BY PROVING THAT IT CAN PROVIDE THE SPECIFIC ITEMS IN QUESTION (WHICH TO NO ONE'S SURPRISE OR PARTICULAR DISMA6, THE RSA USUALLY CAN AND DOES).

3. THE ABOVE RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO ALL BOTSWANA IMPORTS SAVE FOR THOSE IMPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF. UNDER CUSTOMS UNION AGREEMENT, IMPORTS FOR THE GOB ARE NOT DUTIABLE.

4. IT APPEARS TRUE THAT THE WAY TO THE GROWING BOTSWANA CONSUMER MARKET LIES SQUARELY THROUGH PRETORIA.  
NORLAND

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NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS, TARIFF CONCESSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION COME  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 308918, 77 GABORONE 149  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** MTN NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES  
**TAGS:** ETRD, US, BC, MTN  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009